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Chief, RQM/OIS

30 July 1957

Chief, Foreign Documents Division, 00

Semi-Annual Progress Report on the War Documentation
Project (WDP)

1. During the period January-June 1957, research efforts were concentrated on the requirements pertaining to the activities of collaborators, agents, etc., in selected European countries, while simultaneously exploitation was continued of information answering the requirements pertaining to Soviet military units and the Soviet replacement and training system. Moreover, four specific requests for information on the disposition of certain German and Soviet military units, as well as on political indoctrination of Red Army troops, were completed on an ad-hoc basis.

The total effort involved the scanning and exploiting of approximately 900 documents (averaging 150-200 pages each) of the Gestapo, the SS Security Service (SD), and various German (and Soviet) military commands, as well as about 100 strategic maps of the German General Staff. The research effort was greatly aided through a series of ad-hoc conferences with the individual requesters.

2. Out of the total of about 620 Gestapo and SD documents of the Einheitsaktenplan (EAP) series scanned, 50 were selected for thorough exploitation of information on activities of agents, collaborators, etc. The results were WDP Reports No 8, 9 and 11 listed below, as well as several reports still in progress to be submitted approximately by October. The latter reports include studies on British intelligence activities in Yugoslavia (1939-41), and wartime activities of the French and Swiss intelligence services, as well as card files on World War II agents, collaborators and similar individuals operating in the Netherlands and France.

Nazi/Japanese War Crimes Task Force review completed

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3. The exploitation of about 75 German military documents resulted in four reports submitted (WDP Reports No 10, 13, 14 and 15 listed below), giving selected information on histories of Soviet units and on the Soviet replacement and training system. WDP Report No 16, dealing with a list of Brazilian officers, was considered of sufficient interest to warrant submission. Moreover, five additional military reports, based on captured Soviet diaries, are still in progress.

4. The research in answer to the four specific requests, handled on an ad-hoc basis in May and June 1957, involved about 100 strategic maps of the German General Staff, 34 German documents of Division and Corps level, and 21 Russian-language documents (out of a separate file of approximately 500 cards).

Two of these requests were for information on the deployment of certain German and Soviet units. The answer to one was submitted as WDP Report No 12 (listed below), while the information for the other request was given orally.

The answer to the third ad-hoc request to find specific information on a certain personality involving 34 documents and a series of maps was negative. This was supported by the fact that according to one captured document (Document No 27314), most of the pertinent documents of the German units in the area had been lost in combat.

The fourth ad-hoc request was for information on political indoctrination of Red Army troops. While the Russian documents scanned yielded no such information, they did contain a Soviet war diary pertaining to the 208th Guards Regiment, 1 Jan-15 Nov 1943 (Document No RS 282) for which an English translation (Department of the Army Report No G-1395, 117 pages) was identified.

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5. Additional work on the Russian-language Smolensk Communist Party files resulted in two reports. One report concerning party-police relationships, party internal security rules and measures, agricultural collectivization, censorship and direction of literature and the press was published as FDD Summary No 1285, while the other report concerning records of Communist Party meetings, Central Committee purge directives and summaries of purge results is scheduled to be published in September.

6. The following WDP Reports were submitted during this period:

25 Feb 1957, WDP Report No 8, Parts I and II, Collaborators and Counterintelligence Activities in Occupied France, World War II; 39 pages.

24 Apr 1957, WDP Report No 9, Parts I and II, Selected Information on World War II Agents; 9 pages and 43 cards.

4 Jun 1957, WDP Report No 10, World War II History of the 120th Rifle Regiment, 69th Rifle Division (Soviet); 67 pages.

29 Apr 1957, WDP Report No 11, Selected Information on the Contacts of Pierre Laval; 30 pages.

15 May 1957, WDP Report No 12, Selected Geographic Information on the German-Soviet North Front, August 1944; 9 pages.

18 Jun 1957, WDP Report No 13, Selected Information on the "Tadeusz Kosciuszko" Division; 8 pages.

20 Jun 1957, WDP Report No 14, History of the 103d Cavalry Regiment, 20th Cavalry Division (Soviet), (Diary of Sgt Nestrov, 22 Jun 41-26 Sep 43); 19 pages.

19 Jun 1957, WDP Report No 15, The Replacement and Officer Training System in the Soviet Army, as of 15 Dec 1943; 8 pages and 119 photostat pages of original document attached.

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